4-2 (2)

By the King.

A Proclamation for Buildings.

WE doe well perceiue in Our Princely wiſdome and prouidence, now, that Our Citie of London is become the greateſt, or next the greateſt Citie of the Chriſtian World, it is more then time that there bee an vtter ceſſation of further New-buildings, leſt the ſurcharge and ouerflow of people doe bring vpon Our ſaid Citie infinite inconueniences, which haue bene ſo often mentioned, both in Our former Proclamations, & in the Decrees of Our high Court of Star-Chamber, as it were in vaine to repeat them; Our purpoſe and Princely reſolution being now and hereafter, to leaue Words, and to act, and execute Our Princely Ordinances on that behalfe, and not to make diſcourſe or recitall of them: Therefore, as wee doe exceedingly approue and commend all Edifices, Structures, and Workes which tend to publique vſe and ornament, in and about Our ſaid Citie, as the pauing of Smithfield, the planting of Moorefields, the bringing of the New-ſtreame vnto the weſt parts of the City and Suburbs, the Peſthouſe, Suttons Hoſpitall, Britanes Burſe, the reedifying of Algate, Hicks Hall, and the like Workes, which haue bene erected and performed in greater number in theſe twelue yeeres of Our Reigne, then in whole ages heretofore; So on the other ſide, for further addition of priuate Buildings, we are fully reſolued, that this Our Royall Proclamation, and finall and peremptorie commandement, ſhalbe the furtheſt and vtmoſt period and end of them; Onely, as to priuate houſes, we could deſire and wiſh, according to Our former Proclamation and Ordinances touching Brick-buildings, that as it was ſaid by the firſt Emperour of Rome, that he had found the City of Rome of Bricke, and left it of Marble, So that wee whom GOD hath honoured to be the firſt King of Great Britaine, mought bee able to ſay in ſome proportion, That wee had found Our Citie and Suburbs of London of ſtickes, and left them of Bricke, being a Materiall farre more durable, ſafe from fire, beautifull and magnificent.

Hauing therefore lately begun this great reformation, by Our Royall Commiſſion directed vnto Our Priuie Councell, and other principall perſons, and publiſhed in the Guildhall by the mouth and declaration of Our Chancellour, as from Our owne Princely and immediate

direction; wee haue thought good further to confirme and corroborate aſwell Our former Proclamations and Royall commandements, as the ſaid late Declaration of Our Chancellour by this Our preſent Proclamation, wherein firſt we would haue Our louing Subiects vnderſtand, that it ſhall well appeare by Our reſolute and conſtant reſtrayning of all future priuate Buildings without all Diſpenſation, Tolleration or Conniuence, that it was not profit that was the ſcope and end of Our ſaid Commiſſion, but the reformation of the abuſe which by the experience of ſo many former Proclamations contemned, we did plainly ſee before Our eyes was impoſſible to remedy, except puniſhment and example for the time paſt, did accompany the prohibition and reſtraint for the future; wherein neuertheleſſe wee haue caried ſo moderate a hand, and ſo mixed Our Clemencie with Our Juſtice, as the fruit of a Reformation may not haue too much of the ſower grape, but rather a taſte of Our Grace and Mercy. And for matter of profit, wee would haue Our Subiects know, that although it be not a thing wee doe chiefly regard, yet wee take Our ſelues to be intereſſed in honour, that the procedure of a publique Reformation, be not turned to any priuate benefite, but haue the true current into Our Royall Treaſure, which is the ſinewes of Our Eſtate vpon all occaſions.

Laſtly, we doe hereby ratifie and confirme all Our precedent Proclamations touching Buildings in and about Our Citie; Giuing ſtraight charge and commaundement, aſwell to Our Commiſſioners, to proceed diligently and throughly in the execution of Our ſaid Commiſſion, without ſlackneſſe or remiſneſſe (as they haue hitherto well begun) as to all other Our Magiſtrates, Officers and Miniſters, and all Our louing Subiects in generall. That they doe euer hereafter, duely, firmely and ſtraightly obſerue, performe and execute the contents of Our ſaid former Proclamation, and that no man hereafter doe expect either Licence, or Diſpenſation for further Buildings, nor ſo much as this former courſe of lenitie vſed by Our Commiſſion, but the vtmoſt ſeueritie of the Law, and the ſentence of Our high Court of Starre-Chamber, if they ſhall hereafter offend. And becauſe wee intend this Our proceeding for Reformation be inuiolable for the time to come, wee are graciouſly pleaſed, that the Buildings now erected and not finiſhed, bee not pulled downe, ſo that they bee finiſhed by Michaelmas next, the Offendours neuertheleſſe making compoſition with Our Commiſſioners in that behalfe.

Giuen at Theobalds, the ſixteenth day of Iuly in the thirteenth yeere of Our Raigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the eight and fourtieth.

God ſaue the King.

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